Increase in share of Central Government under Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana

1347. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Maharashtra Government has requested the Central Government to increase the share of Central Government in compensation payable to farmers under Rashtriya Krishi Bima Yojana from 50 per cent to 66.6 per cent;

(b) whether the State Government has also requested the Central Government to reduce the present premium rate of sugarcane crop;

(c) if so, the details of the proposal received; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The State Government of Maharashtra has requested an increase in the Government of India's share in the compensation from 50 per cent to 66.66 per cent and reduction in the premium rate for sugarcane and cotton crops to 0.5 per cent and 1 per cent respectively.

(d) The State Government of Maharashtra was apprised that in view of the enlargement of the scope of coverage of the scheme, the share of the Central Government has been kept at 50% under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS).

Regarding reduction in the premium rate for sugarcane it was clarified that actuarial rates of premium are charged for sugarcane. These are worked out by the Implementing Agency (IA) keeping in view the variability of past yield data.

Use of Pesticides

1348. SHRI R. KAMARAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that pesticides

abuse in our country is above 97000 tonnes and it is playing havoc with public life;

(b) if so, the action taken by Government to avoid such impending danger;

(c) whether Government have formulated any guidelines to check abuse of pesticides by keeping the same mimimum residual level and average daily intake level;

(d) if so, for how long such guidelines have been followed by manufacturers of pesticides;

(e) whether there is any monitoring committee for supervising these pesticides companies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The consumption of chemical pesticides in the country has actually come down from 75,033 MT (Technical Grade) during 1990-91 to 47,020 MT during 2001-02. The above reduction in consumption of pesticides has been a result of the active interest and initiatives taken by the Government to reduce the use of chemical pesticides in agriculture in the country and substitution thereof by eco-friendly bio-pesticides and bio-control agents through the Integrated Pest Management which has been adopted by the Government as the main plank of plant protection in the country. Apart from promoting the Integrated Pest Management, the Government has also been periodically reviewing the continued use/ restriction/ban of specific pesticides reported to be hazardous by appointing Expert Committees.

(c) and (d) The Registration Committee (RC) constituted under the Insecticides Act, 1968 registers the pesticides after satisfying itself about the effectiveness of the product against the target pest and safety to human beings, animals and environment. While registering pesticides, the Registration Committee approves the usages including waiting period between last spray of the pesticides and the harvest. If pesticides are used as per recommendations of

the Registration Committee and waiting period is observed, it would not leave excessive residues on treated crops.

Keeping in view the growing concern regarding pesticides residues, the Government started an All India Coordinated Research Project on Pesticide Residues with 17 Coordinated centres all over the country during 1984-85, with a view to develop protocols for safe use of pesticides by recommending Good Agricultural Practices, based on multi-location supervised field trials. In addition, Maximum Residues Limits (MRLs) for various insecticides are also fixed under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act.

Further, the Government is promoting the Integrated Pest Management (IPM) strategy in overall crop production programmes. Under IPM programme, the use of non-chemical methods including bio-pesticides and bio-control agents is being encouraged. The manufacturers of pesticides being encouraged. The manufactures of pesticides in the country are governed by the provisions of the Insecticides Act, 1968 and the Rules framed thereunder.

(e) and (f) The Directors of Agriculture of respective States issue licenses for the manufacture of pesticides in their States after the registration is granted by the Registration Committee (RC). They are also drawing pesticides samples from the Manufacturing Units as well as from Distribution Points for laboratory testing to ensure quality of pesticides, besides creating awareness amongst farming community regarding safe and judicious use of pesticides.

Saving-cum-relief scheme for fishermen in Kerala

1349. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any proposal requesting to grant administrative sanction for the old pattern of saving-cum-relief scheme for fishermen from Kerala;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any decision in the matter;